

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A container end for a container, said end comprising
a neck portion forming a spout on a container body;
said neck portion having a generally cylindrical part including an upper
end with an opening having a surrounding seal surface defining a dispensing opening;
circumferentially spaced neck lugs formed outward to a first diameter
about said cylindrical part for cooperation with a closure cap, the neck lugs including a
first set having a first conformation and a second set having a second conformation
different than the first conformation;
a removable closure cap adapted to cover said dispensing opening, said
cap including a top panel and a cap rim shaped to extend downward from said top panel
and adapted to surround said upper end of said neck, said cap rim terminating in a
generally circular lower edge;
a seal member within said cap on the underside of said top panel;
a set of lugs formed inward within said rim of said cap to a second
diameter less than said first diameter of said first and second sets of neck lugs to latch
under said neck lugs and to retain said seal member in sealed relationship with said
seal surface;
said first set of neck lugs each having an upward extending ramp portion
and a generally flat cam surface facing downward of said neck portion at the same
spacing from said seal surface for compressing said seal member against said
dispensing opening; and
at least one second neck lug including a lower surface facing downward of
said neck portion and a venting portion at a higher level than the lower surface, the
venting portion further having a downturned end that extends to at least a level
corresponding to the lower surface allowing at least one of said cap lugs to release from

a neck lug and to free a segment of said seal member from the seal surface at least adjacent to the second neck lug, thereby initiating a venting path through said cap rim through which path relative pressure between the interior and exterior of the container is equated while said seal member and seal surface continue to be partially engaged.

2. (Previously Presented) A container end as defined in claim 1, wherein said seal member is an elastomeric ring-like member contained within said rim of said cap adjacent the junction of said top panel and said rim.

3. (Currently Amended) A container end as defined in claim 1, further comprising:

an outward curl formed on said lower edge of said rim of said cap; and
said cap lugs extending inward from said outward curl.

4. (Previously Presented) A container end as defined in claim 1, further including said neck portion having a lower end and a rim at the bottom of said lower end for joining to the body of the container.

5. (Original) A container as defined in claim 1, wherein said container end is formed integrally with the top of a container body.

6. (Currently Amended) A metal container end for attachment to a container, said end comprising:

a neck portion having a lower edge;

said neck portion having a generally cylindrical upper part of less diameter than said lower edge and including a dispensing opening with a surrounding curl;

a first set of neck lugs formed outward to a first diameter about said upper part for cooperation with a closure cap, said first set of neck lugs being of generally elongated shape spaced apart around said neck portion and including an upward extending ramp portion and cam surfaces facing downward of said upper neck portion at a common distance from the surrounding curl;

a removable closure cap adapted to cover said dispensing opening and including a top panel and a rim shaped to extend downward from said top panel around said upper neck portion and said neck lugs, said rim terminating in a generally circular lower edge;

a seal member within said rim of said cap adjacent said top panel;

a set of cap lugs formed inward within said rim of said cap member to a second diameter less than said first diameter of said neck lugs to engage under said neck lugs sufficiently to retain said seal member in sealed relationship with said surrounding curl of said dispensing opening;

said cap lugs being spaced apart around said cap rim in correspondence with the spacing between said neck lugs, whereby said cap lugs can be moved thereunder and into contact with said cam surfaces; and

a second set of neck lugs formed outward to the first diameter about the upper part for cooperation with the closure cap, the second set of neck lugs having a conformation different than the first set and including a cam surface at a common distance from the surrounding curl with a reduced circumferential arcuate length than the cam surfaces associated with the first set of neck lugs and a venting portion having a downturned end extending from a lower surface, the venting portion is located at a second distance closer to the surrounding curl than the cam surfaces allowing at least one of said cap lugs to release from an associated one of said cam surfaces and to free a segment of said seal member from the seal surface while at least one of said cap lugs associated with said first set of neck lugs remain in contact with the associated cam surface, thereby initiating a venting path through said cap rim through which path relative pressure between the interior and exterior of the container is equated before the cap is removed.

7. (Previously Presented) A container end as defined in claim 6, wherein at least one of said neck lugs includes a venting portion having a surface spaced above the cam surface of said one lug to urge an associated cap lug to move upward toward said seal surface during opening rotation of said cap and initiate opening of the contact between the seal surface and said seal member.

8. (Original) A container end as defined in claim 7, wherein at least one of said neck lugs includes a stop to prevent further rotation of the cap in an opening direction.

9. (Original) A container end as defined in claim 6, wherein one of said neck lugs includes a depending surface to engage one of the cap lugs traversing an opening between neck lugs, to raise said one cap lug during further opening rotation of the cap so as to overcome a force due to negative pressure within the container and initiate venting of the container interior.

10. (Original) A container end as defined in claim 6 wherein at least one of said neck lugs is shorter in length than the other neck lugs, forming an enlarged space between said one neck lug and an adjacent neck lug to permit one of the cap lugs to move upward toward said seal surface and cause an initial opening of the contact between the seal surface and said seal member, the other of said neck lugs preventing release of the other cap lugs during the initial opening action.

11. (Original) A container end as defined in claim 10, wherein the spaces between the neck lugs are successively decreased, while still wider than the width of said cap lugs, so as to release the cap lugs in sequence.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of manufacturing a container end including a neck member for incorporation with a can body and a cap member forming with the neck member a resealable closure, comprising the steps of:

forming on the neck member a generally cylindrical upper neck part;

forming a curl upon the upper neck part to define a dispensing opening;

forming a first set of neck lugs projecting outwardly of the upper neck part to a predetermined first diameter, and forming cam surfaces on the first set of neck lugs facing away from said dispensing opening;

providing an inverted generally cup-shaped cap member including a top

panel and a rim depending from the top panel and a curl formed about the edge of the rim;¹

forming a set of cap lugs extending inwardly from the rim to a predetermined second diameter less than the diameter of the neck lugs for interaction with the cam surfaces on the neck lugs upon rotation of the cap to maintain the top panel and any seal therein against the outward curl surrounding the dispensing opening;² and

providing at least a second set of neck lugs having a conformation different than the first set of neck lugs having a cam surface with reduced length, located on a common plane with the cam surfaces of the first set of neck lugs and a venting portion having a downturned end extending from a lower surface, the venting portion is located at a second distance closer to the curl than the cam surfaces, allowing at least one of the cap lugs to release from an associated one of the cam surfaces and to free a segment of said seal member from the seal surface while the cap lugs associated with the first set of neck lugs temporarily remain in contact with the associated cam surface so as to initiate a venting path through the cap rim to equate pressure between the interior and exterior of the container prior to completely opening the cap.